REMARKS

Claims 1-8 are pending. By this Response, claims 1 and 6 are amended. Reconsideration and allowance based on the above amendments and following remarks are respectfully requested.

Applicant appreciates the indication of claims 7 and 8 as containing allowable subject matter.

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 3 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Tanaka, et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,130,420); claims 2 and 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tanaka, et al. and claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sakai (U.S. Patent No. 5,206,730) in view of Tanaka, et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

For reasons of brevity, applicant's comments filed in the Response dated February 5, 2004, are hereby incorporated by reference.

Tanaka provides a camera that creates digital images in various modes. The camera of Tanaka can operate in an all pixel readout mode or a thinned readout mode. See column 4, lines 59-67 to column 5, lines 1-2. In operation of the thinned out mode, a driving frequency supplied to a CCD is a fraction (1/m) of the frequency during the all readout mode. The CCD frame rate is also lowered to 1/m. Thus, the number of pixels used for an acquired image at the CCD is reduced and therefore the image is thinned out. See column 6, lines 25-48.

In contrast, in the present invention, as recited in claims 1 and 6, the image is thinned out at the signal processing point 26 illustrated in Fig. 1 and not at the CCD. The full image is supplied to the signal processing point and when a frequency divide clock signal is synchronously applied to the signal processing part, the full image becomes thinned out by application of this divided clock signal.

Thus, Tanaka and the claimed invention operate entirely differently as illustrated above. Therefore, Tanaka fails to teach or suggest, *inter alia*, a signal processing part that captures said digital image data outputted from said A/D converting device and synchronization with a frequency divided clock output or said frequency dividing device, and that processes said digital image data, wherein the image data is thinned out upon application of the frequency divided clock signal to the signal processing part, as recited in claims 1 and 6.

Further, Sakai fails to make up for the deficiencies of Tanaka. Sakai teaches a digital still video camera wherein the frequency of the clock for a signal processing is changed in accordance with a switch operating between a one shot photographing mode and the serial shot photographing mode, so as to reduce power consumption. Sakai fails to teach or suggest, as recognized in the Office Action, the thinning out of an image at the image processing part in synchronization with a divided frequency signal.

Therefore, in view of the above, applicant respectfully submits that Tanaka alone or in combination with Sakai fails to teach the claimed features as recited in

independent claims 1 and 6. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully submitted that claims 1-6 are distinguishable over the cited references. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Chad J. Billings (Reg. No. 48,917) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment(s)